

Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council Newsletter

Winter 2023

Issue 1



Welcome!

*A message from our Chair,
Elizabeth Standeven*

If you received this newsletter, you are a member of the Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council (SRFSC)! The SRFSC includes all properties along Sand Ridge Road and roads sprouting from it.

We are a community and volunteer- driven effort with the mission to mitigate loss of life and property in the SRFSC area from the effects of catastrophic wildfire, through community education, mobilization and action, working with other Fire Safe Councils and stakeholder agencies and organizations. We are supported by the efforts of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and the many other local Fire Safe Councils. We formed in June 2022 and are still working out the best ways to engage with and support community fire resiliency efforts. We try to hold regular meetings to bring up-to-date information to residents about free programs, best practices and products to help them prepare their properties for wildfire.

Let us know about your concerns, needs, and ideas so that we can be of service to you!

We are FireWise!

We were recently accepted into the FireWise Community program! This is a great resource to help our community become more resilient in the face of wildfire. And most importantly, this may qualify you for a fire insurance discount!

First, by being a member of a FireWise Community, each and every one of **you can now ask your insurance provider if they offer a discount.** Even the CA Fair Plan offers a discount! Also ask if they offer discounts for Fire Safe Council areas (we qualify) or if they would offer you a discount for specific home hardening projects on your home.

We hope that if you do receive a discount, that you will consider putting some of that money back into your home or property's fire preparedness. While we saw signs of lots of good work and a general awareness of wildfire preparedness in our community during our assessment phase, homes and properties need continual work to maintain defensible space and almost all homes could benefit from home hardening upgrades.

Second, the goals and roadmap described in our application will guide our efforts going forward in terms of community education and grant funding for specific projects.

Finally, in order to stay in good standing with the Fire Wise community program, we will need to **demonstrate a community-wide investment of 1 hour or money equivalent of work per home each year** to be renewed. This means that we will need for you to keep track of the work you are already doing and submit a time sheet once a month or once a year. Many activities and projects count, (e.g., mowing, raking, weed eating, tree cutting, deck replacements, etc.) **We will need to file our renewal in mid-November 2023 to qualify for this discount again.**

Contact us for a copy of the Sand Ridge Community FireWise certificate if requested by your insurance company. Discounts, if available, should be retroactive to the date we received our FireWise Designation...December 7, 2022.



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



Free Resources

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council has grant funding for the following 2 programs:

Free chipping for defensible space clearing work:

<https://www.edcfiresafe.org/chipper-program/>

2022 Defensible Space Assistance Program For Seniors, Veterans or Those with Low Income:

<https://www.edcfiresafe.org/defensible-space-assistance-program-2022/>

If you have questions or need help accessing these programs, please reach out and we would be happy to help!

Other Benefits



A Global Medical Response Solution

AirMedCare – we have a group rate available to all Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council residents! Contact Sonja below or reach out to us for an application specific for our group.

ASK ME ABOUT:

- Discounted rates for approved affiliate groups & businesses
- Membership makes a great gift to employees, family & friends
- How membership can work with your existing employee benefits

AIRMEDCARE NETWORK Quick Reference Guide SONJA KELLER, MEMBERSHIP MANAGER, 530-648-6455, sonja.keller@gmr.net www.AMCNRep.com/SONJA-Keller, Enter Track Code 13818pring

What is Defensible Space?

Defensible space is the area around your home that you create by managing vegetation to limit the threat of wildfire to your home.



Zone 0 – Ember-Resistant

extends 0-5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

Zone 1 – Lean, Clean and Green

extends 30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

Zone 2 – Reduce Fuel Zone

extends from 30 feet to 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

For details and suggestions visit

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space/>

What is Home Hardening?



Home Hardening is the concept of reducing the flammability of the exterior of your home so that when a wildfire approaches your home has a better chance to survive. For tips and cost-effective suggestions see <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/>

Reduce Wildfire Risk

Here's what you can do during this winter/spring season to reduce your risk of wildfire and promote tree health:

- Check property for dead or bark beetle-infested trees
- Weather permitting, now is the best time to remove those trees and dense undergrowth
- Trim up trees for vertical clearance of at least 6 feet as part of your home's defensible space
- Remove clustered trees to create horizontal clearance of 10 feet between trees where feasible
- Trim dead branches from manzanita or remove altogether... manzanita burns hot!
- If you're planting trees this spring, plan ahead now and plant locally native trees
- Burn debris safely or take advantage of the chipper program (see "free resources" on previous page)

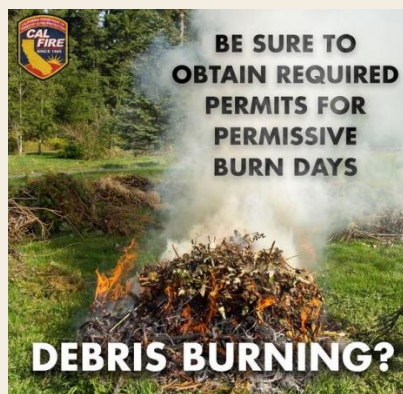
Burn Permit Info

CalFire requires burn permits within their jurisdictional authority for all piles and burns may only occur on permissive burn days (see right for how to confirm burn day status →).

- ✓ <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov>

Air Quality Management District (AQMD) requires burn permits for any piles bigger than 4 feet by 4 feet.

- ✓ <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/burnpermit>



Burn Safely



County of El Dorado Air Quality Management District

330 Fair Lane, Placerville Ca 95667
Tel. 530.621.7501 Fax 530.295.2774
www.edcgov.us/AirQualityManagement

Dave Johnston
Air Pollution Control Officer

Is it a Burn Day? Here are 4 ways to find out!

There are four ways to learn if it's a permissive Burn Day.

The most direct source:



By Phone: updated daily by CalFire
West Slope: (530) 621-5897 or (866) 621-5897
Lake Tahoe: (888) 332-2876

The following are updated by AQMD daily:



On the Web:
<http://edcgov.us/AirQualityManagement/>
Click on "Burn Information" in the left-side menu
You can download a **Burn Permit Application** there too.



On Facebook:
www.facebook.com/EDCAQMD



On Twitter:
www.twitter.com/EDCAQMD, follow: @EDCAQMD

The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Office Hours are:

Mondays – Thursdays: 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Fridays: 8 AM to 5 PM
OPEN LUNCH

Visit our website at www.edcgov.us/AirQualityManagement
for more information on legal burning and District activities.

Thank you for working with us to improve air quality!

Join Us...

Bookmark our website (under construction)
sandridgefiresafe.org

Join our Facebook page: Sand Ridge Fire
Safe Council
facebook.com/groups/430088295663505

Add your name to our distribution list by
sending an email to
info@sandridgefiresafe.org

Drop a note at P.O. Box 747, El Dorado, CA
95623

Call us at (530) 417-6201

***No future communications will be sent via
hard copy due to budget constraints.***

Get Your Defensible Space Evaluation

In order to help property owners reduce the potential of wildfire damage to their property The Aukum Fairplay FSC provides a free evaluation of your property for fire risk and are willing to help our FSC until we have our own evaluators. They have volunteer evaluators certified by CalFire and use the same form to guide the evaluation as CalFire uses to inspect properties for violations.

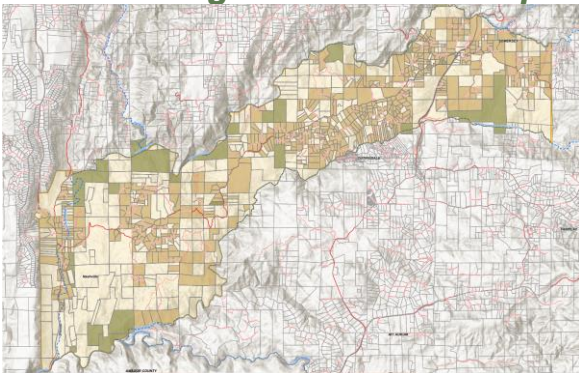
These evaluations are for advisory and education only and they do not forward the results to authorities. They do report the number of evaluations done in each neighborhood which should result in CalFire concentrating their inspections elsewhere. Taking care of problems found in these evaluations can also lower the risk perceived by your insurance Company. Another set of eyes can help!

To request an evaluation or for information, email info@affsc.org. Please include your name, street address, email address, and phone number so they can call back to make an appointment.

Additional Actions

- Attend periodic meetings... to be announced via Facebook, email and neighborhood signs
- Educate neighbors and encourage them to join our efforts
- Talk to your neighbors about your regional fire concerns and bring those forward to help us direct grant writing efforts
- Talk to neighbors about community clean-up efforts, especially in light of the recent storm mess
- Have a voluntary defensible space inspection
- Volunteer to help with website development assistance (WordPress)
- Help us develop a fundraising event
- Ask your insurance company for a discount based on our FireWise designation
- Track your time and money spent (see enclosed insert) on defensible space and home hardening efforts so we can renew our FireWise designation in November 2023

Sand Ridge FSC Parcel Map



12 miles of Sand Ridge Road from Highway 49 to Bucks Bar
including all neighboring roads encompassing over 600
residences and vacant lots